



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
AUG 19 1998  
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AUG 19 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Member, U.S. House of Representatives  
Federal Building  
302 Joplin Street, Suite 302  
Joplin, MO 64801

Dear Congressman Blunt:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Kenneth R. Fannan, regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

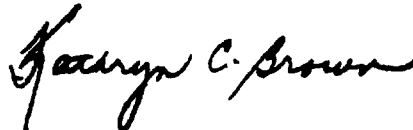
The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

2

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathryn C. Brown  
Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau

ROY BLUNT  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI  
ROOM 508 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-8536

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

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June 8, 1998

Ms. Regina Keeney  
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
Consumer Complaints, Mail Stop 1600A2  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C 20554

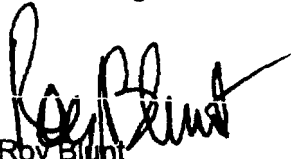
Dear Ms. Keeney:

Please find enclosed a Privacy Act Release Statement signed by a constituent of mine, Ken Fannan, concerning the "universal access fee" on his phone bill.

Please review the enclosed information in order to provide my office with a written basis of reply. All correspondence for Mr. Fannan should be addressed to my constituent advocacy staff at Federal Building, 302 Joplin Street, Suite 302, Joplin, Missouri 64801.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincere regards,

  
Roy Blunt  
Member of Congress

cc: Ken Fannan

Enclosure

RB:sd

CCB  
cc: [unclear]  
access  
4561

www  
see access

**Privacy Act Release Statement**

**COPY**

I respectfully request and authorize Congressman Roy Blunt, of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, to act on my behalf under the 1974 Privacy Act Law to request and receive information from the proper officials regarding \_\_\_\_\_

*A wrongful charge on my  
phone bill! I guess this is  
the best way!*

*Kenneth R Fannan*  
(Signature)

*5-29-98*  
(Date)

(Signature of guardian, if different than the person requesting information)

**Personal Information: (Please print or write legibly)**

*KEN R FANNAN*  
Name: First Middle Initial Last

*498-465-928*  
Social Security #

*401 E-32*  
Address

Civil Service # and/or Veterans I.D. #

*Joplin MO*  
City State

*64804*  
Zip Code

*10/30/44*  
Date of Birth

*Jasper*  
County

*417-782-6316*  
Home Phone Work Phone

Please return this form to:

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Attn: Constituent Advocate  
Hall Federal Building  
302 Joplin Street, Room 302  
Joplin, MO 64801

Or, you may fax the form to the office to expedite your request. Please mail or hand-deliver the original. FAX: (417) 781-2832

If you have any questions, contact the Joplin district office: (417) 781-1041